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IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (previously presented): A closure comprising:

a top wall;

a skirt surrounding said top wall and extending downwardly therefrom with a terminating edge opposite said top wall defining an open bottom end;

a bead integral with an inner surface of said skirt and spaced from said top wall; and,

a helical thread having a substantially flat upper thread surface circumscribing said inner surface of said skirt, said thread having a lower thread profile end of a first horizontal depth and an upper thread profile end of a second horizontal depth, said first horizontal depth being greater than said second horizontal depth, said upper thread profile extending downwardly from said non-back-off bead.

Claim 2. (original): The closure of Claim 1, including a seal on the inner surface of said top wall.

Claim 3. (original): The closure of Claim 2, said seal being positioned between said top wall and said bead.

Claim 4. (original): The closure of Claim 2, said seal being disc-shaped.

Claim 5. (original): The closure of Claim 2, said seal being liner less.

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Claim 6. (previously presented): The closure of Claim 1, said thread being tapered to a second horizontal depth terminating coincident to said inner surface of said skirt prior to reaching said bead.

Claim 7. (previously presented): The closure of Claim 6, said second horizontal depth further tapering flush with said inner surface of said skirt.

Claim 8. (previously presented): The closure of Claim 7, said second horizontal depth ending at a point coincident with a bead disposed between said top wall and said second horizontal depth.

Claim 9. (previously presented): The closure of Claim 1, wherein said first horizontal depth is about .0475 inches and said second horizontal depth is about .01 inches.

Claim 10. (previously presented): The closure of Claim 9, said thread being further tapered to a nominal horizontal depth terminating prior to reaching said bead.

Claim 11. (previously presented): The closure of Claim 10, said thread diminishing in horizontal depth between said first and second horizontal depths.

Claim 12. (previously presented): The closure of Claim 9, said thread diminishing in horizontal depth over an arc of between 45° and 120° from said upper thread profile end.

Claim 13. (previously presented): The closure of Claim 9, said thread diminishing in horizontal depth over a 90° arc from said upper thread profile end.

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Claim 14. (previously presented): A closure comprising:

a top wall and skirt depending from said top wall;

a bead integral with an inner surface of said skirt and spaced from said top wall; and,

a helical thread having a substantially flat upper thread surface, a lower thread portion of a first horizontal depth and an upper thread portion of a second horizontal depth, said first horizontal depth being greater than said second horizontal depth, said upper thread portion of said thread extending downwardly from said bead.

Claim 15. (previously presented): The closure of Claim 14, said thread being tapered to a horizontal depth terminating coincident to said inner surface of said skirt prior to reaching said bead.

Claim 16. (previously presented): The closure of Claim 14, said thread being variable in horizontal depth over an arc of about 90° of said upper thread portion end.

Claim 17. (original): The closure of Claim 14, wherein a seal is located between said bead and said top wall.

~~Claim 18. (previously presented): A closure comprising:~~

~~a top wall and an annular skirt depending from said top wall;~~

~~a bead integral with an inner surface of said skirt and spaced from said top wall;~~

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a helical thread having a substantially flat upper thread surface, a lower thread profile end of a first horizontal depth and an upper thread profile end of a second horizontal depth, said first horizontal depth being greater than said second horizontal depth, said upper profile extending downwardly from said bead and said thread having a flat upper surface;

said thread being tapered to a horizontal depth terminating coincident to said inner surface of said skirt prior to reaching said bead; and,

said thread being variable in horizontal depth over an arc of between 45° and 120° from said upper thread profile end.

Claim 19. (previously presented): The closure of Claim 18, wherein a seal is located between said bead and said top wall.

Claim 20. (previously presented): A closure, comprising:

a top wall and annular skirt depending therefrom;

a bead integral with an inner surface of said skirt and spaced from said top wall;

a helically circumscribing thread integral with an inner surface of said skirt;

said thread having a substantially flat upper thread surface;

said thread tapering into said skirt beneath said bead over an arc of between 45° to about 120° and,

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said thread being tapered to a horizontal depth flush with said inner surface of said skirt prior to reaching said top wall.

Claim 21. (previously presented): A closure, comprising:

a circular top wall and skirt depending therefrom;

a helical thread circumscribing an inner surface of said skirt and having a flat upper surface along its entire length, said flat upper surface being at an angle of about 90° to said skirt;

said helical thread having a lower profile of a first horizontal depth of about .0475 inches and an upper profile of a second horizontal depth of about .01 inch;

said first horizontal depth being greater than said second horizontal depth such that said upper profile tapers into said skirt sidewall from said second horizontal depth to a third horizontal depth of about 0 (zero) inches.

Claim 22. (new): A closure for preventing distortion in the closure during removal from a mold, comprising:

a top wall and depending annular skirt;

a bead adjacent said top wall on an inner surface of said skirt and directed inwardly;

at least one helical thread extending downward from below said bead and having a substantially flat top surface, said at least one helical thread preventing distortion in said closure by eliminating the thread depth in the vicinity of the top wall, said thread depth in the vicinity of said top wall less than a thread depth along a lower section of said annular skirt.